

3-19-2002

Guest Artist Recital: Victoria Chiang, viola, & Lura Johnson, piano

Victoria Chiang

Lura Johnson

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*"It is
plan
to build
a school
of music
second
to none."*

—William
Grant Egbert
(1867–1928)
Founder,
Ithaca
Conservatory
of Music

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA

VISITING ARTISTS SERIES 2001-2

Victoria Chiang, viola
Lura Johnson, piano

Suite hébraïque for Viola and Piano (1951)

Ernest Bloch
(1880-1959)

- I. Rhapsodie*
- II. Processional*
- III. Affirmation*

Sonata for Arpeggione (Viola) and Piano,
Opus Post., D 821

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

- Allegro moderato*
- Adagio*
- Allegretto*

INTERMISSION

Sonata in E-Flat Major for Viola and Piano,
Opus 120, no. 2

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

- Allegro amabile*
- Allegro appassionato*
- Andante con moto*

Konzertstück for Viola and Piano (1906)

Georges Enesco
(1881-1955)

Recital Hall
Tuesday, March 19, 2002
8:15 p.m.

Victoria Chiang has appeared as soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist throughout the United States and Canada as well as in Europe. Highlights include appearances with the Romanian State Philharmonics of Constanta and Tirgu Muresh and solo performances in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and at the XXV International Viola Congress. Ms. Chiang's recording of the sonatas for viola and piano by Roslavets and Shostakovich was awarded a "strong recommendation" by *Fanfare* magazine. Ms. Chiang is one of the founding members of the Aspen Ensemble—a quintet of flute, piano, violin, viola, and violoncello. In addition to performing concerts throughout the United States, the Aspen Ensemble toured Japan this season.

A member of the board of the American Viola Society, Ms. Chiang has given master classes throughout the world. Formerly a faculty member at The Juilliard School and the Hartt School of Music, Ms. Chiang is currently on the artist/faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of Music and the Aspen Music Festival.

Ms. Chiang earned the Master of Music degree and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, and the Bachelor of Music degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Her principal teachers include Heidi Castleman and Masao Kawasaki, viola; and Dorothy DeLay and Kurt Sassmannshaus, violin.

"Great technical assurance and affinity for the music." -- *Strings magazine*

"One of the best concerts [of the season], her playing was notable for its sheer size, dusky beauty, remarkable flowing legato and flawless execution."

-- *The Denver Post*

"Pouring out a rich tone and bringing vibrant character to each phrase."

-- *Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*

"Chiang's performance was ideal. Her intonation was always perfect. Her phrasing was always affecting and musical." -- *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate*

Lura Johnson, hailed by the *Arizona Republic* as a pianist with "real invention and originality and a marvelous sense of flow," is an active recitalist who has appeared in concert throughout the United States and Europe as both soloist and chamber musician. She recently appeared at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City, Washington, DC's Phillips Collection, and at the State of the Arts Music Series at the State Department in Washington, DC. In 2001 Ms. Johnson performed as a LaGesse Foundation Fellowship winner in Toulouse, France. A sought after chamber musician, Ms. Johnson has appeared in recital with Michael Kannen (cellist in the Apollo Trio

and a founding member of the Brentano String Quartet), Chancellor String Quartet, Anderson Quartet, and at the Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival, PianoFest in the Hamptons, and Yale Summer Piano Institute.

Ms. Johnson has won many regional and national competitions, including First Prize in the Rice University, Miami University, and Kent State University Piano Competitions. She is a two-time semi-finalist in the Houston Symphony Ima Hogg Competition, and won special honors at the Wideman International Competition and the Midland-Odessa National Young Artist Competition. She was accepted as one of nine national finalists in the General Motors-Seventeen Magazine National Concerto Competition.

Ms. Johnson's varied interests include not only the standard solo repertoire, but also a strong commitment to twentieth-century music. She has performed Charles Ives' *Concord Sonata* in its entirety in Texas and throughout New England, and in May 2001 she presented a solo recital showcasing twentieth-century American composers at the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, which was broadcast on WGMS FM 103.5's "Front Row Washington" program. She was recently awarded a grant to produce a compact disc recording of the same repertoire. Ms. Johnson was featured as a guest artist at Rice University's SYZYGY: New Music at Rice Series. Ms. Johnson has also given performances of classical repertoire on period instruments, and she was a participant in the first annual festival for Classical Chamber Music on Period Instruments at Oberlin Conservatory.

Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Music *magna cum laude* and a Master of Music from Rice University. Her principal teachers include Brian Connelly, Robert McDonald, and Jeanne Kierman Fischer. In master class, she has worked with Tzimon Barto, Gilbert Kalish, Jon Kimura-Parker, Joel Krosnick, Anthony Newman, and Shulamit Ran. Ms. Johnson has held staff positions as Studio Accompanist at Rice University and Teaching Assistant in the keyboard studies department at Peabody Institute. She now teaches in the piano department at Loyola College.

Upcoming appearances include a combination solo and chamber music recital at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, DC, performances with the Towson New Music Ensemble, solo recitals at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, MD and at the Catonsville Presbyterian Church Series in Catonsville, MD, and a series of benefit recitals for a child advocacy organization in Santa Cruz, CA.